


Memo

To: Board of Managers
From: John M. Fitzgerald, Chief of Police 
CC: Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager
Date: October 30, 2012
Re: Request to Purchase and Install Emergency Lights and Siren in 2003 Dodge Durango

Quick Summary: This memo is intended to inform the Board of the Police Department's plans to outfit the Village's 2003 Dodge Durango with emergency lights and siren so that the Police Department will have access to an additional emergency vehicle for its operations at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.

On December 15, 2011, Officer Deng Tan was involved in a collision (it was not her fault) as she was driving a marked police car; that car was a total loss. Since that time, the Police Department has had a total of three (down from four) marked emergency vehicles and one surveillance vehicle in its fleet.

In the ten months since the Department has been working with the three emergency vehicles, there have been twelve occasions when the lack of an emergency vehicle had an adverse impact on our ability either to respond to an emergency call, or on our ability to provide each on-duty officer with a marked car. With few exceptions, those twelve occasions coincided with one of our marked cars being in the shop for maintenance or repair.

In order to meet the Police Department's operational needs while simultaneously holding down the cost of doing so, I propose that we install emergency lights and siren in the Village's 2003 Dodge Durango. The Village Manager and the department heads have discussed this proposed solution, and all are in agreement that it represents a more efficient use of the Village vehicle fleet, it would fix the occasional emergency vehicle shortage experienced by the Police Department, and it would have no negative effect on any other Village department.

Specifically, the new emergency lights would be mounted inside the Durango's windows and would not change the exterior appearance of the SUV. The Durango is currently shared by Municipal Operations, Code Enforcement and administrative personnel, and it would continue to be used by those departments after the equipment is installed. In the event that the Police Department needed to press the Durango into service as an emergency vehicle, the Police Department would take priority and use the SUV. In exchange, other departments would use the Police Department's surveillance vehicle. Both the Durango and the surveillance vehicle would become shared vehicles for the use of multiple Village Departments/functions.

I am working to get the best bargain for the equipment and its installation, and I am confident that I can get the work done for a maximum cost of \$3,500 (and I will get it done for less if at all possible).